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JOY MORTON · FOUNDER
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POPULAR INFORMATION
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BUTTERFLY BUSHES (*BUDDLEIAS*); LATE SUMMER AND AUTUMN PLANTING COMBINATIONS

Not only butterflies find the late summer and early fall blooming Buddleias attractive, for anyone susceptible to pleasing fragrance and showy pyramidal flower spikes in the color range of lilacs cannot resist the appeal of the Butterfly bushes.

Chinese natives all, indigenous to the milder central and western regions of that extensive country, their behavior in the North is quite different from that of most other woody plants. Die-back shrubs here, the woody branches killing back to the ground almost every winter, they fall more into the category of root hardy perennials than shrubs.

Anyone wishing to plant Butterfly Bushes, or Summer Lilacs as they are also called, will perhaps benefit from a few cultural hints. We have found, for example, a sunny well drained planting site to be a major prerequisite of the group. One of the most satisfactory plantings in the Arboretum is in an abandoned gravel pit where gravelly soil and a steep slope provides a situation seemingly just to their liking. In heavier soils winterkilling of the roots sometimes occurs even with the added protection of soil mounded over the crowns. In any event cutting all growth completely back to the ground each spring will insure bushier, better shaped plants. The annual growth is phenomenal, blooming sized bushes resulting by summertime. Heights up to 6 or 8 feet are not uncommon with ultimate size varying according to variety.

Square stems and opposite leaves mark the *Buddleia Davidi* varieties as do the conspicuous orange centered, honey scented flowers. The latter occur in pointed, terminal spire-like panicles which in some varieties may attain lengths of from 8 to 12 inches. They appear in great profusion over an extended period, in color variations ranging from white through hues of heliotrope, lilac, pinkish, violet and purple. A loose structural compactness is characteristic of the entire group, and in view of the temporary nature of the top growth Buddleias are often planted to serve as backgrounds for perrennial borders. Charming summer and fall combinations are possible when they are so employed.

Buddleia foliage, while variable in size, tends somewhat to coarseness in texture. The leaves are long, rather narrow, sharply toothed and of dark or medium green coloring. Their undersurfaces are grayish.

Numerous horticultural varieties are in cultivation, of which the following are currently represented in the Arboretum collection:

*"CHARMING"

Small pinkish lilac flowers in medium sized spikes; general effect pinkish and one of the best of this color group; a very bushy shrub to 6 feet with medium textured foliage of medium green.

"DUBONNET"

Rosy purple flowers in medium sized spikes tapered at the ends; a bushy 5 foot shrub with narrow dark green leaves with lighter undersurfaces.

"FARQUHARI"

Magenta pink flowers in somewhat stubby spikes; a 5 foot shrub with foliage of medium size and medium green coloring.

"FASCINATING"

Soft pinkish lilac flowers in elongated spikes; of bushy habit 3½ to 4 feet in height; foliage long and slender.

*"FLAMING VIOLET"

Deep toned reddish purple flowers in elongated spikes; a bushy variety from 4 to 5 feet in height with large leaves.

"FORTUNE"

Small bluish lilac, fringed petalled flowers with pronounced orange eyes borne in good sized spikes; lower growing and bushier than most varieties; medium sized narrow foliage.

'HARTWEGI"

Lilac hued flowers in short stubby spikes; a shrub to 4½ feet with slender dark green foliage.

*"PURPLE PRINCE"

Purple flowers tinged dark blue at the edges and marked with conspicuous golden centers; flower spikes elongated; a bushy, medium sized shrub with dark toned foliage.

*"WHITE PROFUSION"

Profuse small, golden centered white flowers in broad full spikes; very bushy in habit and from 3 to 4 feet tall; foliage narrow and peach-like.

SOME LATE SUMMER AND AUTUMN PLANTING COMBINATIONS

In continuation of a series of recommended plant combinations presented in the April, 1954 Morton Arboretum Bulletin (Vol. 29 No. 4), the following late summer, autumn and early winter groupings are suggested. In each listing the tallest growing plants are mentioned first, with the medium sized and low growers following in proper sequence. The

*Especially desirable.

preferred exposure and major attraction of each composition are also included.

BURKWOOD VIBURNUM *(Viburnum Burkwoodii)* persistent green foliage; WHITERIM BLUNT PLANTAINLILY *(Hosta decorata alba)* white margined green foliage; WHITEVEIN WINTERCREEPER EUONYMUS *(Euonymus Fortunei reticulata)* ground cover with white veined green foliage—P.Sh. S. A long lasting green and white combination.

COMMON HEMLOCK *(Tsuga canadensis)* fine textured evergreen foliage; LARGE FOTHERGILLA *(Fothergilla major)* yellow, orange and purplish red fall foliage color; OREGONGRAPE MAHONIA *(Mahonia Aquifolium)* semi-evergreen foliage; PURPLE-LEAF WINTERCREEPER EUONYMOUS *(Euonymus Fortunei colorata)* ground cover with evergreen foliage—Sh. P.Sh. A shade combination effective over a long period.

CORNELIANCHERRY DOGWOOD *(Cornus mas)* persistent green foliage; WINGED EUONYMUS *(Euonymus alatus)* rose pink fall foliage color; ALPINE CURRANT *(Ribes alpinum),* persistent green foliage—S. P.Sh. An autumn color grouping.

DOUGLAS FIR *(Pseudotsuga taxifolia)* evergreen foliage; DWARF WINGED EUONYMUS *(Euonymus alatus compacta)* brilliant red foliage color; BIGLEAF WINTERCREEPER EUONYMUS *(Euonymus Fortunei vegeta)* semi-evergreen light green foliage.—S. A brilliant fall composition.

FLOWERING DOGWOOD *(Cornus florida)* brilliant red fall foliage color and red fruit; WINTER HONEYSUCKLE *(Lonicera fragrantissima)* persistent green foliage; ALPINE CURRANT *(Ribes alpinum)* persistent green foliage; MYRTLE or PERIWINKLE *(Vinca minor),* an evergreen ground cover.—S. P.Sh. An autumn foliage grouping.

JAPANESE YEW *(Taxus cuspidata)* dark evergreen foliage; FRAGRANT PLANTAINLILY *(Hosta plantaginea)* yellow green foliage, fragrant white flowers; BULGARIAN IVY *(Hedera helix Bulgarian MBG)* evergreen foliage—Sh. P.Sh. A late summer composition.

MUGO PINE *(Pinus mugo mughus)* evergreen foliage; ADAMS-NEEDLE YUCCA *(Yucca filamentosa)* evergreen foliage; PURPLELEAF WINTERCREEPER EUONYMUS *(Euonymus Fortunei colorata)* an evergreen ground cover turning purplish in autumn—S. An all green combination of permanent interest.

PAPER BIRCH *(Betula papyrifera)* golden yellow foliage color, white bark; WAYFARINGTREE VIBURNUM *(Viburnum lantana)* persistent green to bronze foliage; POSSUMHAW VIBURNUM *(Viburnum nudum),* red foliage color; ALPINE CURRANT *(Ribes alpinum)* persistent green foliage—S. P.Sh. A colorful fall foliage grouping.

PINK BUTTERFLY BUSH *(Buddleia Davidi "Charming")* late pink flowers; COMMON BLUEBEARD *(Caryopteris incana)* soft blue flowers, grayish foliage; BLUE LEADWORT *(Ceratostigma plumbaginoides)* deciduous ground cover with bright blue flowers—S. An early autumn floral grouping.

PINK ROSE OF SHARON *(Hibiscus syriacus "Rubis")* single clear pink flowers; PINK CUSHION CHRYSANTHEMUM *(Chysanthemum Pink Cushion)* pink flowers; BLUE LEADWORT *(Ceratostigma plumbaginoides)* bright blue flowers—S. An early autumn floral combination.

PURPLE SMOKE TREE *(Cotinus Coggygria purpureus)* purple foliage; AUTUMN LYCORIS, HARDY AMARYLLIS *(Lycoris Squamigera),* pinkish flowers; BRONZELEAF CARPET BUGLE *(Ajuga reptans atropurpurea)* bronzy foliaged ground cover—S. A late summer floral and foliage composition.

REDBUD *(Cercis canadensis)* yellow foliage color; SHADBLOW, JUNEBERRY *(Amelanchier canadensis)* terra cotta foliage color; FRAGRANT SUMAC *(Rhus aromatica)* orange yellow and scarlet foliage color—S. P.Sh. An autumn foliage grouping.

S=Sun Sh=Shade P.Sh.=Part Shade

RED PINE *(Pinus resinosa)* bold evergreen foliage; AMERICAN SMOKE TREE *(Cotinus americanus)* bright yellow fall foliage color; SHINING SUMAC *(Rhus copallina);* brilliant red to purplish fall color—S. A fall foliage color grouping for light soils.

SMOKE TREE *(Cotinus coggygria)* orange red to purplish fall foliage color; WITCHHAZEL *(Hamamelis virginiana)* yellow flowers, clear yellow fall foliage color; S. P.Sh. An autumn foliage color grouping.

SPICEBUSH *(Lindera Benzoin)* clear yellow fall foliage color; ALPINE CURRANT *(Ribes alpinum)* persistent green foliage; WILD GINGER *(Asarum canadense)* bold leaved ground cover—Sh. A foliage color grouping for shade.

SWEET AUTUMN CLEMATIS *(Clematis paniculata)* fragrant white flowers; HEAVENLY BLUE MORNING GLORY *(Ipomoea purpurea* "Heavenly Blue") sky blue flowers; PINK CUSHION CHRYSANTHEMUM *(Chrysanthemum* Pink Cushion) profuse pink flowers—S. An autumnal floral combination for posts or treillage.

WASHINGTON HAWTHORN *(Crataegus phaenopyrum)* bronzy red foliage color, Chinese red fruit; AMERICAN CRANBERRYBUSH VIBURNUM *(Viburnum trilobum)* orange red fall color, red fruit; JETBEAD *(Rhodotypos scandens)* persistent green foliage—S. P.Sh. A foliage and fruit combination.

WHITE BUTTERFLY BUSH *(Buddleia Davidi* "White Profusion") white flowers; DAYLILY (*Hemerocallis* "Susan Treadwell") late yellow flowers—S. A. late summer floral composition.

WHITE PINE *(Pinus strobus)* evergreen foliage; CUTLEAF STAGHORN SUMAC *(Rhus typhina laciniata)* brilliant orange scarlet fall foliage color; RUNNING EUONYMUS *(Euonymus obovatus)* green foliaged deciduous ground cover—S. A fall foliage combination.

WINGED EUONYMUS *(Euonymus alatus)* rose pink fall foliage color; JAPANESE KERRIA *(Kerria japonica)* yellow fall foliage color, bright green twigs; KELSEY-DWARF REDOSIER DOGWOOD *(Cornus stolonifera "Kelseydwarf")* greenish foliage, reddish purple twigs—S. A fall foliage and winter color and texture combination.

WINGED EUONYMUS *(Euonymus alatus)* rose pink fall foliage color; WINTER HONEYSUCKLE *(Lonicera fragrantissima)* persistent green foliage; KOREAN BARBERRY *(Berberis koreana)* deep red fall foliage color, persistent red fruit—S. An autumn and early winter foliage and fruit grouping.

WITCHHAZEL *(Hamamelis virginiana)* yellow flowers, clear yellow fall foliage color; JAPANESE YEW *(Taxus cuspidata)* dark evergreen foliage; JAPANESE SPURGE *(Pachysandra terminalis)* bright green persistent foliage—P.Sh. Sh. An autumn flower and foliage combination whose interest carries on into winter.

WITCHHAZEL *(Hamamelis virginiana)* yellow flowers, clear yellow fall foliage color; SOUTHERN BLACKHAW VIBURNUM *(Viburnum rufidulum)* wine red fall foliage color; JAPANESE KERRIA *(Kerria japonica)* yellow fall foliage color, bright green twigs—S. P.Sh. An autumn foliage combination.

E. L. KAMMERER

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